



BAPTIST INFORMER

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December 2009

GBSC THEME

"To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship,"

Matthew 28:19-20

Remember the Children's Home During this Season of Giving

By Rev. N. T. Davis
Board Member of the Central Children's Home

Greetings to all of the Baptist family across the great state of North Carolina. Peace from God our Father and His only Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We know the reason for this wonderful time of the year is the birth of our Savior.



Blessings to all who have supported Central Children's Home this past year. Greetings from our Board President, Dr. George Cook, and our new Director, Ms. Angela Williams, staff, and the children. May God continue to bless you for all of your support.

Today we have fifteen children, and hopefully this will rise to twenty soon.

Mr. Michael Alston retired at the end of 2007 and has moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina. But the home still needs your support to survive. Ms. Williams is doing an excellent job.

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CSI: A Call to Spiritual Integrity



Dr. Audrey Battle

President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.

All I want for Christmas is total commitment to the following: dedication, availability, and endurance.

Second Corinthians 5:15-19 states: "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh; yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. To wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

This Christmas commitment that is: redirected ambition, refocused vision, and redefined mission.

It's hard to find a gift for a King who has everything. It's also difficult to find a gift worthy of a Savior who has given everything. But what about a gift for the Lord who ask for everything? What present would please the Lord? A Christmas commitment.

Are we convinced to believe that God chose to begin this Christian faith with a

holy baby instead of a book: in swaddling clothes instead of man in priestly garments; born in a manger instead of at an altar; born in a stable instead of in a cathedral?

Do we have God's kind of love? Jesus is Lord, He made the rules, and He calls the shots.

If you have received the gift you have the responsibility of obeying, following, honoring Him, and doing His will. The King of Kings was born in a humble surrounding of loving parents; was anointed to insignificant shepherds in the fields. God is definitely for the neglected, the despised, the forgotten, and the outcast.

As we move into a new decade, there are challenges that will confront us as children of God. There will be many different unique roles that will be required of us to perform. These obstacles will be significant ones that will not be successful without our dependence upon the greatest of all. He's our Savior, our Director, our Guide, and our Counselor.

Following is our theme for the four-year tenure: CSI = A Call to Spiritual Integrity in Leadership.

Christ in Every Home
Proverbs 6:16-19:

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speak lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

First Chronicles 19:13: "Be of good

courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the Lord do that which is good in his sight."

2009-2010: A Call to Spiritual Integrity with the Anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:13-14: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

2011: A Call to Spiritual Integrity with Emphasis on Love.

Scripture: John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." First John 4:8: "He that loveth not knoweth not God: for God



is Love."

2012: A Call to Spiritual Integrity in Unity and Cohesiveness.

Scripture: First Corinthians 1:10: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions

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In Memoriam
The GBSC recognizes the following Baptist family members who passed away in November.

The Christmas season is here and we need your help. Please pray for the home and children and send us your financial support. The children are here because of no fault of their own. But I thank God that they have a place like the children's home, that they may live until they can take care of themselves.

Please remember that we are a part of the GBSC family and have been since 1882. This is the Lord's work. It is here to stay and there is a great need. Please do not neglect our chil-

dren.

So let us dig deeper to keep this home open. Christ will be pleased. God's richest blessings be with you all as the season of gift-giving touches your heart.

Thank you from the president, director, staff, and children, and to God be the glory for the great things He has done.

Email gbscgray@bellsouth.net.

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among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Psalm 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity?" Psalm 86:11: "Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."

2013: A Call to Spiritual Integrity into Faithfulness.

Scriptures: Lamentations 3:22-23: "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." "They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." First Samuel 26:23: "The Lord render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the Lord delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed." Psalm 36:4 "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds."

Our goal is to press forward with the high calling and determination. Spiritual integrity teaches us how to reclaim our truth from the inside out. At our core, we have a beautiful and unique essence and purpose. We cover this shining light of clarity and inspiration with layers of other people's opinions, thoughts, and desires.

We live not for who we are, nor for who we believe others want us to be. We sometimes ignore our own truth with the hopes that we will be accepted and loved if we are nice. We sometimes spend all of our precious energy fighting other people's opinions.

Spiritual integrity is a remembering, a weaving of our scattered parts into a solid whole. We step back into our Spiritual Integrity when our thoughts, our actions, and our emotions stem from our essence rather than our strategies and old patterns.

Each of us has tasted integrity those moments when we feel open and aligned with our highest selves. These times are the ones we look back and say "Yes, that was my integrity; that was wholeness; that was my essence shining brightly in the world."

Spiritual integrity is a cellular recognition that we are not our mind, emotions, or body. We are the light that illuminates from within. As we move, move, and move into Spiritual integrity, our minds, our emotions, and our forms become sweetly transparent, so the luminous light of your spirit radiates our spirit.

All we want for Christmas in a comprehensive Call to Commitment for Isaiah 9:6 for unto us a child born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His

shoulder and His name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah foretells of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. His birth would be at a definite time and place in history. This Messianic Son would be born in a unique and marvelous way. Isaiah records five names that would characterize His function as the Messiah:

Wonderful: The Messiah would Himself be a Supernatural wonder. The Messiah would show His character by His deeds and miracles. (Isaiah 28:29)

Counselor: The Messiah would be the incarnation of perfect wisdom and have the words of eternal life; He would disclose the perfect plan of salvation.

Mighty God: In the Messiah all the fullness of the Godhead would exist in bodily form. (Colossians 2:9, John 1:1-14)

Everlasting Father: He not only would come to reveal the heavenly Father but He Himself would act toward His people eternally as a compassionate Father who loves, guards, and supplies the needs of His children. (Psalms 103:13)

Prince of Peace: His rule would bring peace with God for human kind through deliverance from sin and death. (Isaiah 11:6-9, Romans 5:1 and 8:2)

CSI = A Call to Spiritual Integrity. This is the beginning of a new challenge, new vision, and new focus!

There are many things I want to do to enhance the work of our Convention. At the top of the list: unity and togetherness.

Sometimes when changes are made, it brings on hard feelings and conspiracies develop. I would love to recognize the presence of healing taking place, attitudes changing, and unification developing. These will determine how successful our administration will be.

What is your Motive? If you desire to do right and to give right, then you are acting in the Spirit of Christ, but if you only give desires to appear right to get the spotlight you have the wrong motive. May your actions today reflect a desire to please God, not to please or to impress people. (Matthew 6:16)

Colors for the tenure: 2010-purple, 2011-gold, 2012-black and silver, and 2013-blue.

Opportunities for Travel

By Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.

I rejoice to inform you of Lott Carey immersion opportunities for 2010. Because there are limited spaces available for each international short-term missions team, we will accept confirmations on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact us at lottcarey@lottcarey.org if you're interested in accompanying us. Write "Missional Travel" in the subject line for faster processing. Non-refundable down payments of \$100 will be due for both international assignments by December 31. We'll connect you with our travel consultant for details about Baptist World Congress reservations and payment plans.

Short-Term Missions Assignment: Kenya

March 1-12, 2010

Dr. Robert G. Murray, Pastor of First Baptist Church - Bute Street, Norfolk, Virginia, and President of Lott Carey, will lead a short-term missions assignment for pastors to engage in worship and preaching in partnership with the Lott Carey Baptist Ministries of Kenya and Sudan. The preaching and worship will be in and near Kericho and Kisumu, Kenya. The cost per person is \$3,400 with double occupancy. The cost includes roundtrip air transportation from Washington Dulles International Airport, domestic air and ground transportation within Kenya, and hotel accommodations in Kericho and Nairobi. A maximum of 10 persons will serve on this preaching team.

Short-Term Missions Assignment: Ethiopia

May 10-18, 2010

This short-term missions assignment will allow people to learn and serve in a context of HIV/AIDS ministries and among women who are forced into commercial sex work. This assignment is in partnership with African Aids Initiative International in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This team will learn from, pray for, and encourage people infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and team members will gain deeper insight about the causes and contexts of commercial sex work among women forced into this life. The cost per

person is \$2,500, double occupancy, and includes roundtrip air transportation from Washington Dulles International Airport, ground transportation within Ethiopia, and hotel accommodations. A maximum of 15 persons will serve on this team.

Baptist World Congress: Hawaii

July 28-August 1, 2010

The Baptist World Congress is the gathering of Baptist people from around the world every five years for worship, study, service, and fellowship. We expect 10,000 or more Baptists from around the world to share together around the theme, "Hear the Spirit." Lott Carey has two conference packages that include airfare from most U.S. departure cities, hotel (double occupancy), daily breakfast, roundtrip transfers from the Honolulu airport to your hotel, two tours, and travel insurance. Five-night

package: July 28-August 2, with standard accommodations beginning at \$1,945 per person and superior accommodations beginning at \$2,195 per person. Six-night package: July 26-August 1, with standard accommodations beginning at \$2,200 per person and superior accommodations beginning at \$2,515 per person.

Lott Carey's travel consultant will work with you on other pre- or post-conference experiences. (Of course, we hope you will only make pre-conference visits that will allow you time to attend the 113th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Convention that meets August 9-13, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio!) In addition to airfare

and hotel reservations, each attendee must register for the event. See the 20th Baptist World Congress website at : www.bwac-congress2010.org. For those who are interested in attending the Baptist Women's Leadership Conference (July 24-27, 2010) before the Congress, this can be arranged with our travel consultant (see www.bwawd.org).

Please share these opportunities with persons in your networks. And please begin now to undergird these assignments in your prayer. Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

God's
people
are
calling.



Rev. Ricky Banks

A Tribute to Clergy

By Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Banks
Third Vice President GBSC

Roanoke Missionary Association pays tribute to the fallen clergy in 2009.

Rev. Wade Patrick

September 7, 1934 to March 30, 2009. Rev. Patrick served in the deacon ministry, and in 2000 was called to pastor First Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Plymouth. Rev. Patrick was still serving First Zion Grove congregation at the time of his death. Sleep on Rev. Patrick. Funeral services were held April 4 at New Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Plymouth; Rev. James Harris, Eulogist; Rev. Harry White, Host Pastor.

Rev. Barry Chris Powell

April 7, 1960 to July 1, 2009. Rev. Powell began his Christian experience at the Samuel Chapel Pentecostal Holiness Church in Moyock. He was an active member of the choir and lead singer of the Powell family gospel quartet "The Silvertones." He later became a member of The Christian Home

Baptist Church in Moyock, where his father, the late Rev. George Powell Sr., was pastor. In 1994, Rev. Powell was called into the gospel ministry, and in 1996 he was called to pastor the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia, N.C. After the retirement of his father, Rev. Powell was installed in 2003 as pastor of The Christian Home Baptist Church. There he served until his death. Funeral services were held July 4 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Chesapeake, VA.; Rev. Ronnie Culley, Eulogist; Dr. K.W. Brown, Host Pastor.

Rev. Quinton Lonell Griffin Sr.

August 12, 1952 to July 6, 2009. Rev. Griffin was a proud and committed member of Pentecostal House of Prayer in South Mills. He served there as a trustee, deacon, and later a minister. After ordination services, Rev. Griffin was called to pastor the Haven Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Manteo, and there he served for ten years. We're grateful for the leadership given to Haven Creek by Rev. Griffin at the time of his death. Funeral services were held July 11 at the Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Jarvisburg; Elder Franklin Griffin Sr., Eulogist; Rev. Collis Griffin, Officiating.

Rev. Elijah Wake Horton

May 18, 1917 to September 29, 2009. After moving to Langhorne, PA, Rev. Horton joined First Baptist Church of Langhorne. There he was ordained in the deacon ministry, and later called to preach. Rev. Horton was called to pastor the New Mt. Calvary Church in Milmay, N.J., the Eureka Baptist Church in Wildwood, N.J., and First Baptist

Church, Langhorne, PA. After moving back home to Edenton, N.C. in 1984, Rev. Horton was called to pastor St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and from 1997 to 2004 pastored the Providence Missionary Baptist Church, retiring in 2004 from the pastorate but not from preaching. Funeral services were held October 3 at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church; Rev. William McClurkin, Eulogist; Rev. Dr. John R. Shannon, Host Pastor.

Rev. Walter Jones Sr.

March 18, 1916 to October 10, 2009. At an early age, Rev. Jones became a member of the Christian Home Baptist Church in Moyock. There he served as an usher, Sunday school teacher, choir member, church clerk, trustee, and deacon. Rev. Jones

was called into ministry and licensed to preach in 1982. He was called to pastor the Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Jarvisburg in 1983 and served that congregation for 25 years. Rev. Jones retired from the pastorate in 2008, but was still ready to preach whenever called upon. Funeral services were held October 16 at Christian Home Baptist Church; Dr. William M. Sawyer, Eulogist; Rev. Ronnie Culley, Host Pastor.

Rev. Banks can be reached at
252-335-5003 or
pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com.

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church

Wanted: Church musician (piano); Requirements: Must love the Lord;
must be familiar with traditional and contemporary gospel music;
must be available for rehearsal on Saturdays and
10:45 a.m. service on Sundays. Salary is negotiable.
References required. Contract position.

If interested, contact Delores Taylor at (252) 823-2730
or Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
at (252) 823-5117, option 4.

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Mr. William B. Thompson
Financial Strategist

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A Woman of Firsts

From Staff Reports

Pastor Rachel Mitchell and First Abbottsburg Missionary Baptist Church celebrated Mitchell's first pastoral anniversary in July. The Rev. Ronnie Clarida, Pastor of Pleasant Union Missionary Church, conducted the morning service along with Pastor David Camps, of Baldwin Branch Missionary Church and moderator of the Hammond Creek Association.

Pastor Mitchell is a native of Bladen County, North Carolina, and she served 31 years in the military in the Washington, D.C. area. In 2000, she relocated from D.C. to the Lisbon community where she was reinstated to the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and was elected the first female in the history of the church to serve on the Trustee Board. She also served as an adult Sunday school teacher, Bible instructor for the youth, and chairperson for the new members orientation committee.

In April 2004, she became the first female ordained into the ministry from the Hammond Creek Association of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. On the evening of June 25, 2008, First Abbottsburg Missionary Baptist Church overwhelmingly affirmed the will of God, making Rachel Mitchell the first female pas-

tor in the Hammond Creek Association. Four months later she was installed as the first female pastor of the Abbottsburg church, with the Rev. Gordon Griffen presiding and the Rev. George Franklin Pone conducting the installation service.



Young Pastor Celebrates First Year

By Dexter A. Hinson



The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Ansonville recently honored their pastor, the Rev. M. Andrew Davis, with a special service celebrating the first year of his pastorate.

The 22-year-old son of Deacon and Deaconess James and Juanita Davis of Lilesville, he's a 2005 graduate of Anson Senior High School, and received his B.S. in liberal studies with a concentration in African American studies from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 2009. Davis is currently attending Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, pursuing the master of divinity degree.

The sanctuary was filled to capacity as several pastors, ministers, and parishioners from area churches came to celebrate the

occasion. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Tobias Wall, pastor of Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church of Marshville. Based on the text from Matthew 9:35-38, the message was titled "Laborers for the Kingdom."

Pastor Davis answered his calling into the ministry and preached his initial sermon on July 16, 2006 under the leadership of the Rev. Lennon Parson Sr., of West Rocky Ford Missionary Baptist Church in Wadesboro, and he is a second generation preacher. Davis previously served as youth pastor at Manasseh Baptist Church in Greensboro. While serving at Manasseh, he offered a great deal of new innovations that were helpful and beneficial to the congregation.

Pastor Davis has progressed to fulfill the will and purpose of God upon his life and others as:

- More than twenty new disciples were added to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Ministry.

- The manifestation of new ministries came to fruition—Missionary Ministry, Outreach Food Ministry, Praise Ministry, Media Ministry, New Disciples Ministry, Childcare/Nursery Ministry, and re-establishing the Children's Church Ministry.

- Three new Deacons were ordained to assist the work of the ministry.

- Fifth Sunday Fellowship Service was integrated.

- A state workshop titled "The Importance of Education in the Twenty-First Century" was hosted.

- Enhancements were made to the church parking facilities.

- The incorporation of a Minister of Music was implemented.

Pastor Davis resides in Lexington with his wife Asheka and their children Azariya and Joel.

Faith-Based Community Group Exerts Influence on Area Politics

From YesWeekly.com

The more than 1,000 delegates from the Winston-Salem chapter of Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment, or CHANGE, all rose to their feet inside Union Baptist Church and welcomed a surprise visitor to their annual fall assembly with thunderous applause.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson stepped into the pulpit and addressed the CHANGE delegates, who had come from a vast cross-section of area churches to attend the November event.

"To see you sitting here together is such a beautiful thing," Jackson said. "We learned a bad lesson well—how to survive apart—and must learn to live together. Living together is more difficult than surviving apart, but is more rewarding than surviving apart. The great issues of our time take us from racial battleground to economic common ground and moral higher ground."

Perhaps no other figure in American politics represents the intrinsic role of the church in our nation's political landscape more than Jackson. Therefore, his appearance at the delegates' assembly was only fitting. And Jackson wasn't the only political heavy-hitter in attendance. U.S. Senate candidate Kenneth Lewis also attended the assembly.

After Jackson's brief remarks, the Rev. Susan Parker, CHANGE's co-chair, outlined the group's public policy victories of the past year. Parker spoke of CHANGE's key role in persuading legislators in the N.C. General Assembly to pass a bill that makes school board elections in Forsyth County non-partisan during the legislature's summer session.

On June 8, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 833. The Winston-Salem chapter of CHANGE spearheaded the campaign. Prior to the passage of the bill, which was championed by state Senator Linda Garrou (D-Forsyth), Forsyth County represented one of only 10 school districts that did not follow North Carolina state statutes, which call for non-partisan school board elections.

"We hope this development will help us reach beyond politics and focus our community on issues that are of direct impact to our children rather than on following issues determined by political parties," Parker said. "Further, this should lead to candidates desiring to campaign more actively, helping all voters understand their educational priorities for our

students."

The passage of the bill speaks volumes about CHANGE's ability to influence public policy, said Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn.

"Education is a non-partisan issue," he said. "And while some things are, and some things are not white or black, Democrat or Republican, non-believer or devout follower, the school board is not a place to highlight those differences."

CHANGE's Dayenin Arellano spoke about the group's victory in winning a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its childhood lead poisoning prevention project last month. Arellano attributed CHANGE's successful grant application to the hard work and diligence of its Health and Wellness Action Team.

And so it went. CHANGE's action

Continued on Page 6

CHANGE

God on Your Phone

From Press Release



GoTV Networks, Inc., a mobile media network and mobile services provider, has announced an exclusive agreement with CallOnJesus.com to bring a library of faith-based applications to mobile phones.

Under the terms of the agreement, GoTV will syndicate content from CallOnJesus.com, including books, video, and audio to mobile phones through GoTV's family of video, audio, and book-reader applications. The applications will be distributed through GoTV's wireless carrier network and application storefronts.

"I am extremely pleased to bring compelling Christian content from CallOnJesus.com to mobile phones, which are a pervasive part of our increasingly digital lives," said Dudley C. Rutherford, founder and president of CallOnJesus.com and senior pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Los Angeles. "My vision for CallOnJesus.com was to use the Internet to make sermons, books, and other materials available to people around the world. These

exciting mobile phone applications expand on that vision and enable viral peer-to-peer sharing of the Gospel on a global basis."

The applications launching at the time of this announcement include:

-CallOnJesus: Integrated sermon video, Bible reader, and daily devotional application.

-Bible in a Year: Integrated Bible reader and devotional video application.

-Romancing Royalty: Daily devotional application.

The three applications are currently available for Apple iPhones and Google Android-powered phones. They can be purchased and downloaded through the Apple iPhone Application Store and the Google Android Market. Availability will be expanded in coming months to select RIM Blackberry phones as well as phones powered by Microsoft Windows Mobile and other Smartphone platforms.

For more details, visit www.gotvnetworks.com.

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CIAA Honors Continued from page 8

total scoring. He had a total of 1,233 all-purpose yards on the season. Williams was a Pre-Season All-CIAA selection.

Fred Sparkman led the Bears in tackles with 63, which included 11 tackles for a loss and three and a half sacks. He was named CIAA Linebacker of the Week twice.

Vincent Pacifico led the conference in punting with a 39.6 yards per punt average – a Shaw single-season record. His long punt on the season was 55 yards.

Shaw and Elizabeth City State lead the way with five representatives

each on the first team. Shaw finished the season 8-2, 5-2 in the CIAA, finishing second in the Western Division behind Fayetteville State.



Quintez Smith



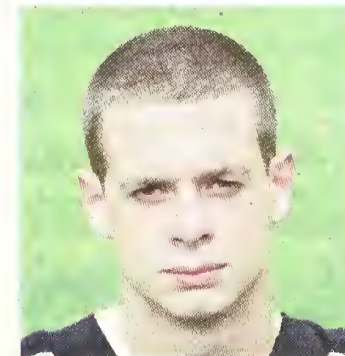
Edawn Coughman



Raymond Williams



Frederick Sparkman



Vincent Pacifico

Fulfill your Calling

"During my divinity school journey, my relationship with God was stretched beyond a surface level faith to a place of mysteries further than my human intellectual capacity."

Lamont serves as Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, NC.

Gardner Webb University
School of Divinity

www.gardner-webb.edu/divinity

teams on health and wellness, economic development and education gave its assembled members updates on efforts to help improve the lives of all Forsyth residents. The Rev. Kelly Carpenter of Green Street Methodist Church updated members on CHANGE's "10 percent is enough" campaign against Bank of America and Wachovia/Wells Fargo. On October 2, CHANGE members took a bus trip to Charlotte to speak with corporate officials about the group's efforts to cap credit card interest rates at 10 percent, Carpenter said. CHANGE representatives have since met with Wachovia/Wells Fargo officials and scheduled

another meeting to discuss the group's economic development agenda.

CHANGE is described as "a multiracial, multi-faith, non-partisan community organizing group comprised of 53 dues-paying congregations, neighborhood associations, and other interested groups."

Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn most aptly described the group's overarching mission for engaging civic and political leaders in discussions on fairness and equality for all. Strauss-Cohn utilized the biblical example of Abraham to drive his point home.

"We do not seek the overthrow of our civic institutions," Strauss-Cohn said. "Rather we, like Abraham, want to ask questions and strive to work together in a goodly and I dare say, a godly way—to define what is right, to secure what is just, to create that which is sustainable for the best of all our citizenry and the best for all our citizenry."

"May we do so in peace and health, in safety and in partnership with one another, our elected officials and all concerned interests," Strauss-Cohn continued. "May all of us go on together in strength."



In Memoriam

The GBSC recognizes the following Baptist family members who passed away in November.

Rev. Dr. Archie D. Logan Jr.

Served as the eighth Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention (1997-2003). Dr. Logan was Executive Director and CEO of Institutional Management Resources, LLC, a faith-based consulting firm located in Raleigh. He served the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., for more than 25 years in several capacities. He was Pastor of Johnson Chapel Baptist Church in Elm City, and he was the Executive Vice President and Dean of Distance Education at the Apex School of Theology in Durham. Funeral held November 19 at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church. Condolences to his son, Robeson D. Logan, may be sent c/o Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 115 Holderby Street, Reidsville, NC 27373.

Mr. Johnny Gabriel

Uncle of Gregory Gabriel, GBSC Laymen's League Second Vice President. Funeral held November 28 at New Prospect Baptist Church in Sherrills Ford. Condolences may be sent to Gregory Gabriel at 3408 Reid Circle, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673.

Mr. Billy "Jack" Webster

Brother of the Reverend Dr. James A. Webster, GBSC General Board Member and Pastor of Oak Ridge First Baptist Church in Oak Ridge. Funeral held November 25 at Good Will First Baptist Church in Madison. Condolences may be sent to James Webster at 360 Pine Valley Drive, Madison, NC 27025.



Gift of Life for Christmas

By

Dexter Vincent Perry, CFP®
Sr. Wealth Planner
Dperry@ProvidenceGroupNC.com

Yes, it's that time of year again. 2009 is almost over and we're heading into one of our most celebrated holidays, Christmas. Family, friends, loved ones and acquaintances along with great food, fellowship and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ come to mind when we think of Christmas. Oh yeah, don't leave out the gifts.

Indeed this time of year has also been ordained as the "giving time of the year." Truly we have all given of ourselves and our resources throughout the year, but Christmas is a special time and season of giving. We give to show our appreciation and love for our family and friends. We give special gifts that will hopefully be remembered for years to come.

With this in mind, we want to offer a couple of gift suggestions for this holiday season, the first one being life insurance. Life insurance, mislabeled "death insurance," has great benefits before and after death. North Carolina Mutual offers whole life policies that accumulate a steady amount of cash value during the life of the policy. The policies even have a loan provision that allows you to get money from the policy and use it for short-term financial needs. North Carolina Mutual offers a guaranteed interest rate on your cash value so you can count on your accumulation values increasing each year as declared by the company board of directors.

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In economic times like these, let's make our gifts count. Give the gift of life.

Dexter V. Perry is a Certified Financial Planner and serves as Senior Wealth Planner for The Providence Group of North Carolina located in Cary, NC. He can be reached at 919-858-7817 or by email at dperry@providencegroupnc.com with any questions or comments.

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THEME: "By the word of truth, by the power of God,
by the armor of righteousness..."
(II Corinthians 6:7)

First Baptist Church

302 Moore Street
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**Position: Assistant Minister for Preaching
and Young Adult Outreach
Permanent part-time position**

First Baptist Church is seeking part-time 8 a.m. worship
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the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor and must be able to work at
least 20 hours per week (day or evenings and Sundays).
A Master of Divinity degree is preferred.

Contact Mrs. Angela Taylor at 910-483-6505
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Shaw Football Players Earn CIAA Honors

From Press Release

Cornerback Quintez Smith has been named the CIAA's Defensive Player of the Year. He joins four other Shaw University football players on the All-CIAA First Team. Four Bears were named to the All-CIAA Second Team.

First team representatives for Shaw are Smith (Sr, Dublin, GA) at defensive back, Edawn Coughman (Jr., Riverdale, GA) on the offensive line, Raymond Williams (Jr., Cleveland, OH) at running back, Fred Sparkman (Jr., Columbia, TN) at linebacker, and Vincent Pacifico (So., Palm Coast, FL) as the punter.

Shaw players on the second team are Markus McElveen (Jr., Norwalk, CT) on the offensive line, Isaiah Thomas (Sr., Winston-Salem, NC) and DeMarcus Roberson (So., Chapel Hill, NC) on the defensive line, and James Duplessis (Sr., Covington, LA) at linebacker.

Quintez Smith tied a Division II record this year by returning four interceptions for touchdowns, is tied for first in D-II in interceptions with nine, and has 302 return yards. He has 49 tackles on the season and also scored two touchdowns on

fumble returns.

Against Elizabeth City State in week one, Smith set a Division II single game record with 194 interception return yards. He tied the single game record of three interceptions returned for touchdowns. Smith was named CIAA Defensive Back of the Week three times this season, and was named d2football.com's National Defensive Player of the Week during week one.

This is the third year in a row that a Bear has been named Defensive Player of the Year. Louis

Ellis won the award in 2007 and 2008.

Edawn Coughman anchored a staunch Shaw offensive line that allowed the Bears to lead the CIAA in scoring offense (42.1 points per game) and total offense (387.4 yards a game). Coughman was CIAA Offensive Lineman of the Week this past week.

Raymond Williams led the Bears in rushing with 811 yards in nine games. His 12 touchdowns led the CIAA in that category and he was second in the conference in

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BAPTIST INFORMER

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*Rev. Dr. David L. Thompson, left, and
Rev. Parnell Kelly Jr.*

Pastoral Recognition

The Rev. Dr. David L. Thompson and the Rev. Parnell Kelly Jr. were recently honored for their years of service and dedication as pastors and community leaders in the area by the Stanly County Baptist Sunday School Union. Thompson has pastored Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Badin for 33 years. He is also a past moderator of the Stanly County Missionary Baptist Association and has served on boards with the General Baptist State Convention for several years. Kelly has pastored Shiloh Baptist Church in New London for 23 years, and is the current moderator of the Stanly County Missionary Baptist Association and president of the West Badin Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

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